

REMARKS

Status of the Claims.

Claims 1-17 are pending with entry of this amendment, claims 18-32 being cancelled and no claims being added herein.

Allowed Subject Matter.

Applicants note, with appreciation, that the Examiner has allowed claims 1-17. Accordingly, Applicants have canceled claims 18-32. Please note, however, that Applicants reserve the right to file subsequent applications claiming the canceled subject matter and the claim cancellations should not be construed as abandonment or agreement with the Examiner's position in the Office Action.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believes all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner seek to maintain the rejections, Applicants request a telephone interview with the Examiner and the Examiner's supervisor.

If a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (510) 769-3513.

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Respectfully submitted,



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